

Ex-Timesman Is Top Civilian In U. S. Hush-Hush Spy Network

By JOHN V. WILSON

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WASHINGTON, April 21—A former Indianapolis Times newspaperman is now the top civilian in the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency.

As newly-named deputy director, Richard McGarrah Helms provides the "professional touch" to the United States' far-flung intelligence-gathering network.

Helms, a 52-year-old Phi Beta Kappa, entered the "spy" game in 1943 and has been with the CIA since its formation by President Truman in 1947.

President Johnson promoted Helms to the No. 2 post when he selected William F. Raborn Jr., a retired Navy vice admiral, as CIA's new director.

Federal law requires a civilian to hold one of the two top posts. Raborn succeeds John McCone and Helms replaces Lt. Gen. Marshall S. Carter.

Helms was a member of The Times advertising staff from 1937 to 1942 and is married to the former Julia Bretzman of Indianapolis.

He has had an international outlook since school days, which may provide a clue to his career.

Helms was born in St.

Dauids, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, the son of an executive of the Aluminum Corporation of America.

HE WAS SCHOOLED in Switzerland, Germany and the United States, graduating from Williams College in 1935. He joined United Press and covered Berlin and London for two years.

During his Berlin stint, Helms interviewed Adolph Hitler and covered the 1936 Olympics. He wrote a story titled "Hitler and Mars, Inc.," which was published in The Times.

In April, 1937, Helms joined the advertising staff of The Times and advanced to general advertising manager in two years.

On Valentine's Day, 1942, Helms left to enter the Navy. He was commissioned a lieutenant, junior grade, and sent to school at Harvard University.

What was to become a career in "spying" began in August, 1943, when Helms was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of CIA.

That's when he faded into the world of national secrecy. His official biography states only that his work took him to England, France and Germany.

AFTER THE WAR, Helms stayed on with U. S. intelligence organizations and eventually wound up with CIA.

He is understood to have been one of a handful of the top men in government who differed with the final decision in 1955 to support



Richard Helms

the Cuban rebel invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

When that venture ended in utter failure, there was a shakeup in CIA. Helms replaced Richard Bissell, who had planned the attempt to overthrow Castro, as deputy director of plans.

He held this No. 3 post in the CIA hierarchy until Johnson promoted him. McCone, the retiring CIA director, had recommended Helms as his successor.

As the agency's top career man, Helms will direct the work of some 20,000 to 30,000 people and the annual expenditure of \$500 million to \$2 billion.

CIA is based in a huge temporary headquarters across the Potomac River in McLean, Va. Armed guards ride on city buses during their trips through the fenced compound.

Helms and his wife live in a pleasant section of north-west Washington. They have a son, Dennis, who attends the University of Virginia law school.

In this most sensitive post, Helms has gone full circle as a former newsman.

He does not submit to interviews. And his rare public appearances usually come at Congressional committee hearings.

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